



## **PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ORGANIZED SPORTS QUESTIONNAIRE REPORT May 2003**

This report contains an Executive Summary, including key findings, and a detailed summary of the responses to the organized sports group questionnaire.

### **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **A. Introduction**

There are a variety of groups providing organized sports activities in Eugene, including the City of Eugene Recreation Services Department. A questionnaire inquiring about sports activities, trends, and needs was distributed to twenty-one groups providing organized sports, including the City of Eugene and local high schools, in April 2003. Of the twenty-one groups that were contacted, completed questionnaires or telephone responses were received from fifteen of them. Only one volunteer-run sports group was not interested in participating, and one group no longer exists. The remaining four that did not respond were local high schools.

The groups contacted were identified by the City of Eugene as organizations or agencies that use sports fields and gymnasiums. Additional data collected through this questionnaire will be used in the needs assessment portion of the Comprehensive Plan project to aid in the determination of current and future sport field needs.

#### **B. Participants**

**AYSO**, Paul Staudthammer  
**City of Eugene Athletics Program**, Dave Battaglia  
**Community Softball League**, Cyndee Haines  
**Dark Star Ultimate Frisbee**, Jared Weybright  
**Emerald Valley Little League**, Martin Read  
**Eugene Lacrosse Club**, Marc Graff  
**Eugene Rugby Football Club**, C. Michael Arnold  
**FC Willamette**, Bob Tricket

**KIDSPORTS**, John Crane / Jackie Coburn  
**Oregon United Soccer Academy**, Sue Pabst  
**South Eugene High School**, Dave Hancock  
**Willamette High School**, Barry Bokn  
**Willamette Valley Babe Ruth Baseball**, Donald Slayton  
**Willamette Valley Pop Warner Football**, Fred Banks  
**YMCA**, Dave Perez

#### **C. Overview**

This report summarizes information about organized sports in Eugene received through a questionnaire sent out to twenty-one organized sports providers.

#### **D. Key Findings**

The following key findings emerged from the questionnaire:

- There is a **wide variety of organized sports** in the Eugene area, ranging from more traditional sports such as baseball and soccer to less common activities, such as lacrosse, water polo, and rugby.



- **More** sports opportunities are available **for youth** than for adults.
- The City of Eugene provides **a variety of City-sponsored adult sports programs**. Many cities provide adult basketball and softball, and adult volleyball is also fairly common. Eugene also provides adult soccer and Ultimate Frisbee.
- High schools provide a **wide range of sports activities for youth**.
- There are many opportunities to participate in **youth soccer** in Eugene. This sport has the most recreation providers (9), including 5 high schools and 4 private organizations.
- There are also many opportunities to participate in **youth baseball** in Eugene. There are 8 providers, including 5 high schools and 3 private organizations.
- Most of the privately run groups indicated **a need for more fields and gymnasiums**.
  - Improvements to existing fields;
  - Development of a sports field complex;
  - More fields for soccer, rugby, baseball, softball; and
  - More gymnasiums or a field house.
- Overall, the respondents reported **growth in organized sports participation**.
- Many groups suggested **ways to partner with the City**, including managing facilities, providing volunteers, and doing field maintenance. Other ideas for partnerships included marketing, coordination of field assignments, and sharing costs.

## II. QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

A detailed summary of questionnaire responses follows. The numbers in parentheses indicate how many people mentioned a particular statement.

### What is the mission of your organization?

- *City of Eugene Athletics*: To create and facilitate recreational and competitive sports opportunities to the Eugene community.
- *KIDSPORTS*: KIDSPORTS is dedicated to providing positive life experiences to youth through sports participation and positive role modeling through mentoring.
- *Dark Star Ultimate Frisbee*: Darkstar Ultimate is committed to helping grow the sport of ultimate in Eugene and beyond. We also strive to provide quality tournaments for local and regional teams.
- *Eugene Rugby Club*: To promote rugby.
- *Eugene Lacrosse*: To spread the game of lacrosse throughout the southern Willamette Valley.
- *Willamette Valley Babe Ruth*: Highly competitive baseball! Tryouts for teams is common.
- *Willamette High School*: Offer quality programs by educated professional in a safe environment, as well as alternatives for those not skilled enough to compete at varsity level.
- *South Eugene High School*: To offer every child an opportunity to participate in sports through either OSAA activities or school intramural activities.
- *YMCA*: Life enriching activities for all.
- *FC Willamette*: To provide an environment for kids to realize their soccer potential.
- *Willamette Valley Pop Warner Football*: WVPWF's general objectives are the same as its National Organization (Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc.). They are to inspire youth,



regardless of race, creed, religion or national origin, to practice the ideals of sportsmanship, scholarship, and physical fitness.

- *Oregon United Soccer Academy:* Oregon United Soccer Academy strives in every word, deed, and action to become a leader in the development of soccer players in the local community.
- *Emerald Valley Little League:* To assist youth in developing the qualities of citizenship, discipline, teamwork, physical well-being and fair play through proper adult guidance and exemplary leadership.

**What is the geographical boundary of your organization? (Example: Eugene City limits, School District, etc.) What sports do you offer?**

Table 1 on the last page illustrates the organized sports activities available in Eugene, the groups that provide them, and the geographical boundaries of the organizations.

**Is there a need to expand or improve facilities? If so, what is needed?**

*Sports Fields*

- Develop a large sports complex for soccer, softball, baseball, basketball and football, for youth and adults. (7)
  - Large complex with multiple soccer fields. When we hold tournaments (Ultimate Frisbee) in Eugene, we are forced to use sites all over the City. If I could get anything I wanted, I would ask for a large complex with 8 soccer fields.
  - The construction of the artificial turf fields at all high schools has been a major contributor to the development of our (soccer) program. We feel that it would be very beneficial to have the City create a complex of soccer and game fields (softball, etc.) with an additional turf field to be utilized by all. This complex would be similar to the ones found at Tualatin Hills Recreation Center and Delta Park/Strasser Field in Portland. The complex would hold about four or five soccer fields, basketball courts, two or three softball fields, and one turf field.
  - Provide a (soccer) complex to host tournaments. Provide an indoor soccer complex in Eugene.
- Improve existing soccer, football, baseball fields and t-ball fields (back stops, dead ball fences, player benches and bleachers). (2)
  - Improve field surfaces (remove mole mounds).
- Expand the current venues. The volume of spring sports.
- Make available additional safe "pitches" for rugby.
- More available fields for both football practices and games.
- Consider offering at least one artificial turf field that is lit in the evening hours.
- Need lights for 60-foot baseball fields.
- Provide more 90-foot baseball fields.
- Redesign fields to include grass infields and pitching mounds.
- Increase number of baseball/softball fields.
- Adequate game fields for soccer needed.
- Improve practice time available for soccer fields.
- Increase number of fields with disabled access and facilities.

*Gymnasium Space*

- Promote a new gymnasium, especially for children. (2)
- Number of gym sites to practice teams needs to be expanded.

*Other Site Facilities*

- Ensure additional restroom facilities at some of the existing sites.



- Pursue additional indoor or covered basketball, volleyball, soccer and roller hockey facilities.
- Develop a new field house.
- Consider concession facilities.

### **What trends are you experiencing in your sport?**

#### *Growth*

- Overall growth at all levels of competition for Ultimate Frisbee. Several high schools now have teams, league hosted a region-wide tournament in fall 2003. The UO now has 2 men's teams and women's team, along with a growing intermural league. City League Ultimate has seen consistent growth over the past several years. Club level play (competitive traveling) is also growing for both men and women.
- Rugby is adding a new high school team each year and adding new adult players every year.
- Rapid growth, interest and participation in tackle football.
- Overall growth in Lacrosse at the high school level, as well as plans to develop a middle school lacrosse program in early 2004.
- Greater participation in baseball throughout Lane County. More competition for participants between Willamette Valley Babe Ruth, Little League, Kidsports and junior baseball leagues.
- Growth in participation for available YMCA activities.
- FC Willamette-strong to growing participation. Trends in recreational soccer have maximized.
- Soccer has always been considered a "non-American" sport, but labeled as a soccer mom sport. However, the growth of youth soccer has been rising at a tremendous rate consistently year after year. With the recent success of our national team at the World Cup 2002 and the development of our professional leagues, the amount of superstars for young kids to look up to has grown consistently. Overall the sport of soccer has been growing every year.
- Continued growth (Little League); increase no. of chartered leagues in Lane County from current 3 to 10 within 5 years. Anticipate no. of players to exceed 2500 within 3 years.

#### *Decline*

- It seems as though baseball and softball are experiencing a slight decline at the recreation level.

#### *Other*

- Higher and higher costs in particular transportation and officials.
- A rise in youth organizations wanting to use fields and gyms during "adult time" hours.
- Stable participation at all sports and at all levels for high school sports.

### **How could your organization and the City partner to improve sports facilities and programs?**

- *KIDSPORTS*: Currently enjoys a partnership with the City. However, KIDSPORTS would like the opportunity to share equipment.
- *Dark Star Ultimate Frisbee*: Could provide a positive contribution to any youth Ultimate Frisbee program that the City may run in the future, including volunteers to teach and supervise.
- *Eugene Rugby Club*: When the space is open, let them use it. They can help with maintenance.
- *Pop Warner Football*: Working with the City directly to form a partnership.
- *Eugene Lacrosse*: The process for all organizations to schedule fields should be presented better. I know there are multiple organizations that want to use the available fields in the spring.



- *Willamette Valley Babe Ruth:* Build a community 90' Diamond Complex. Build lights at our 60' quad complex.
- *Willamette High School:* Currently share resources (Shasta Fields). Could build multi-purpose fields (i.e. 4J football/soccer) that could encourage weekend use by City/adults.
- *South Eugene High School:* Better communication-especially on repairing facilities at peak use times, sharing costs, (repairs) having City supervise their events.
- *YMCA:* City could provide facilities; YMCA could manage facilities and programs to save the City operating costs.
- *FC Willamette:* Help find contracts to make arrangements or long term leases for use of fields. Guarantee our involvement and help with construction and maintenance of facilities. Cooperatively work with City and Oregon United Soccer Academy.
- *Oregon United Soccer Academy:* If OUSA were to partner with the City to improve sports facilities, they would like to use the City's marketing budget. This would aid in free coaching clinics for kids, which would help raise money to pay for fields. The cash flow is very low, so they could not directly donate, but help in other ways such as clinics, committees, camps, etc.
- *Emerald Valley Little League:* We have huge resource base of volunteers to work on fields – help with design, help with construction, annual preparation, ongoing maintenance.

**Do you have any other general comments/issues or concerns?**

- Overall, the Darkstar Ultimate Club is satisfied with City programs and facilities. The City league programs are good. General concerns are the lack of a large tournament-style soccer complex and an overall lack of available fields. Any new soccer fields would be greatly appreciated. (Club realizes that a bond just failed).
- There is a need for baseball, softball and soccer fields available for pre-high school (youth) age groups.
- Pop Warner Football would like to work directly with the City in regards to field use assignments.

*Prepared by MIG, Inc., Eugene, Oregon*

